

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

March 10, 2014

www.op97.org

Important Dates

March 12

Reading Olympics

March 18

Science Fair

March 21

Staff vs. Students Basketball Game

March 31-April 11

CogAT

April 21-May 2

IAAT (algebra placement test)

April 25

Rockin Lock In

May 14

Robert Crown Field Trip

May 16

Transition Picnic

June 6 (tentative)

Pool Outing

June 9 (This is a CHANGE)

Completion Ceremony

June 10

Last Day of School (Calendar Change)

STEM Week

STEM Week (brought to you by PTO) will be the week of March 17. STEM Week @ Holmes is a series of programs celebrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The Fifth Grade Science Fair will be held on Tuesday of STEM Week (March 18).

PTO is looking for people in STEM fields to share their experiences with students during STEM Week.

If you work in a STEM field, have an interest or hobby in a STEM area, or know someone in the STEM field who might be interested in doing a classroom presentation, please contact PTO's STEM Week Volunteer Coordinator - Alexandra Blomgren at stemweek1@gmail.com. See the flyer posted on the Digital Backpack for more information.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com 5th graders have finished the Wednesday Journal's "Design an Ad" contest and should hear the results around Spring break. We are now learning about Islamic Art. It features only non-representational (abstract) imagery. The results are geometric designs that feature radial balance and create beautiful patterns. We are creating a stamp using an art eraser and carving a design into it. Using a grid, we will radially rotate and repeat our stamped design to create a pattern reminiscent of Islamic artwork.

Music - We will be finishing up the dance unit this week and returning to our compositions by the end of the week. Some of the video clips are up and the rest will be up by Wednesday! Hope you enjoy seeing your children working together so wonderfully!

Chorus - The chorus permission slips have been distributed digitally. If you did not receive the link or need a paper copy, either email me or send a note through your child. Our performance at halftime with the Chicago Sky is 6/6. Please save the date! Lastly, I am putting in an order for chorus tees this week. They cost \$6-\$7 depending on how many I order. Please email me if you would like one as well as which adult size to get.

Spanish - Students completed all assessments on Carlos y los 3 Monstruos. They will be beginning a new story this week. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>.

Library - READING OLYMPIANS: The Holmes competition is this Wednesday during library. Winners from the Holmes competition will take part in the district event on Monday, March 17th. Good luck to all the participants! I know how hard you've worked! For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>. As always, feel free to email me with questions mmaneck@op97.org.

Physical Education - (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

Resource

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

Reading/Literature

We are going to finish our exploration of figurative language this week. Students will work to identify and express the true meaning of the interesting ways authors use language. Simile, metaphor, idiom, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, and alliteration are some of the terms we will use. Homework will support our exploration of figurative language and new MAP Action Plans.

This is the fourth and final week of our 5th-grade **Literature Circle**. Students are responsible for reading a portion of their book and completing the role task sheets each week. The first page of their

Literature Circle workbook says what pages they should be reading and which role they have this week. The roles rotate each week so every student will have the opportunity to be the scene setter, super summarizer, character sketcher, and conflict connector. Please check-in with your student and ask if he/she is ready for their Friday book discussion!

Writing

This week we will begin to work on Persuasive Essays. We will do this by exploring the famous Einstein quotation, “Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.”

Math

This week, we will be focusing on using algebraic expressions and representing rates with formulas, tables and graphs. Students should be working on their MAP math action plans at home. Many students chose to work on Khan Academy or Moby Math to help improve their math skills. Both of these programs can be accessed online. If your student chose to work on the Problem of the Week for his/her action plan, the problem will be posted on the math page of the 5th grade wiki on Monday morning.

Science

This week, we will focus on making sure students feel prepared for the Science Fair. The Science Fair will take place on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. We will work with students on planning sheets, but experiments must be conducted at home. The science section of the wiki will be updated with information throughout the process.

<http://holmes5thgradescience.wikispaces.com/Science+Fair>

Social Studies

The first half of the week we will be doing a “Living Timeline” to help us share our American Revolution Battle research. Students will meet with classmates who studied the same battle and make a short presentation. Presentations will be shared Tuesday.

In honor of STEM week, Thursday and Friday we will begin a mini-unit on Inventors. We will read about a number of diverse inventors and analyze whether they used more imagination or knowledge in their careers.

Spelling/Word Study

Students will be assigned spelling words this week. Words are also posted on the Wiki!

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Mr. Finkbeiner
afinkbeiner@op97.org

Ms. Kraft
fkraft@op97.org

Ms. Manuel
mmanuel@op97.org

Ms. Zucker
azucker@op97.org